

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 PM-04 SAM-01 NSC-05 USIA-06

OPR-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 SY-05 A-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /060 W

----- 101163

R 020830Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3504

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 2230

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PGOV, OVIP, US, TC

SUBJECT : UAE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM OTAIBA VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. EMBASSY IS PLEASED THAT SECRETARY WILL BE ABLE TO SEE OTAIBA AND HOPES IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE OTHER MEETINGS REQUESTED BY HIM AS REPORTED IN LONDON 16673.

2. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, OTAIBA HAS NO OBJECTIVE OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE IN COMING TO WASHINGTON AT THIS TIME. RATHER HE FEELS THAT, IT HAVING BEEN OVER TWO YEARS SINCE HE WAS LAST IN THE US, IT IS TIMELY FOR HIM TO HAVE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ENERGY PROBLEMS WITH TOP US OFFICIALS. HE ALSO MENTIONED SOME TIME BACK THAT SHAIKH ZAYID HAD GIVEN HIM MESSAGE FOR SECRETARY. THIS MAY WELL HAVE TO DO WITH ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION RATHER THAN ENERGY, IN WHICH CASE WE SURMISE IT WILL BE BLAND COMBINATION OF PRAISE FOR PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED AND EXHORTATION TO DO MORE.

3. IN AREAS DIRECTLY RELATED TO HIS RESPONSIBILITY, OTAIBA WILL BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO HEAR HOW WE ASSESS PROSPECTS FOR MINISTERIAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE WHICH OPENS NEXT MONTH. ALSO, AS WE REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT SOME TIME AGO, OTAIBA HAS WANTED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR LONG-TERM GAS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UAE AND US. WHILE WE CONVEYED TO HIM AT THAT TIME GIST OF DEPARTMENT'S HELPFUL REPLY, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT TO ARRANGE SESSION WITH APPROPRIATE

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EXPERTS TO GO OVER THIS SUBJECT IN DEPTH. OTAIBA IS BY NOW

KNOWLEDGEABLE ON MOST ASPECTS OF ENERGY AND WILL BE ABLE TO ABSORB SOPHISTICATED ANALYSIS OF POLICY COMPLEXITIES USG FIXES ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. SINCE TIME WITH SECRETQRY WILL BE LIMITED, I BELIEVE IT WILL BE MOST PRODUCTIVELY SPENT BY GETTING ACROSS TO OTAIBA(WHICH HE WILL RELAY TO SHAIKH ZAYID) BASIC THEMES OF OUR ARAB-ISRAEL POLICY-- WHY WE HAVE BELIEVED STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH HAS BEEN MOST FEASIBLE WAY TO PROCEED, HOW WE PERCEIVE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER PROGRESS AT THIS STAGE, IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO CONTINUED SUPPORT BY OIL RICH STATES FOR FORCES OF MODERATION ON ARAB SIDE. ON LAST POINT

SECRETARY COULD CITE FACT HE HAS RECEIVED REPORT FROM ME ON MY LATEST CONVERSTATION WITH SHAIKH ZAYID AND EXPRESS GRATIFICATION FOR ZAYID'S ASSURANCES THAT HE INTENDS TO CONTINUE HIS GENEROUS ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. AS IN OTHER ARAB CAPITALS, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE CONCERN UNDER SURFACE IN ABU DHABI THAT AGREEMENTS ACHIEVED THUS FAR HAVE NOT TOUCHED PALESTINIAN PROBLEM. THERFORE ANY REASSURANCES SECRETARY FEELS HE CAN CONVEY WITH RESPECT TO OUR LONG-TERM INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD, OR EVEN IF IT MUST BE LIMITED TO FRANK EXPLANATION OF DIFFICULTIES WE FACE IN MOVING FORWARD ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION JUST NOW, WILL BE RECEIVED WITH RESPECTFUL ATTENTION HERE. ZAYID'S CONNECTIONS WITH BOTH SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS ARE PARTICULARLY STRONG, AND WHILE HE WOULD NOT BE THE MAN TO INVOLVE IN ANY DETAILED WAY IN ARAB-ISRAEL NEGOTIATING SITUATION, HE COULD BE USEFUL IN REINFORCING CERTAIN BASIC THEMES THAT WE ARE TRYING TO GET ACROSS TO THESE PARTIES.

5. WE ASSUME THERE WILL ALSO BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY FOR SECRETARY AND OTHER OFFICIALS WHO MEET WITH OTAIBA TO STRESS IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO FUTURE OPEC RESTRAINT ON OIL PRICES. IN THIS RESPECT WE BELIEVE SAUDIS HAVE CONSISTENTLY TAKEN RESPONSIBLE AND SENSIBLE POSTION AND WE URGE UAEG TO GIVE SAUDI ARABIA ITS FULL SUPPORT IN FUTURE OPEC MEETINGS.

6. I HOPE SECRETARY WILL ALSO FIND OPPORTUNITY TO ASK OTAIBA TO CONVEY TO SHAIKH ZAYID OUR PLEASURE AT WAY US-UAE BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE DEVELOPING. WE ARE ESTABLISHING STRONG LINKS IN MANY FIELDS AND HOPE PARTICULARLY THAT IN BOTH IN DEVELOPMENT OF ABU DHABI'S IMPORTANT GAS DEPOSITS AND IN INDUSTRIAL-DIVERSIFICATION PRO-  
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GRAM WHICH OTAIBA'S MINISTRY IS ALSO IN CHARGE OF, THERE WILL BE MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. FIRMS TO PARTICIPATE.

7. FINALLY, I HAVE BEEN URGING, AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THAT WE EXTEND INVITATION TO SHAIKH ZAYID TO VISIT THE US NEXT YEAR. EVEN IF WE ARE NOT IN POSITION TO PIN DOWN DATES PRECISELY, IT WOULD BE VERY WELL RECEIVED HERE IF SECRETARY COULD INDICATE TO OTAIBA IN GENERAL TERMS OUR DESIRE TO HAVE SHAIKH ZAYID VISIT THE US,

AND OUR HOPES THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PROPOSE DATE FOR THIS IN  
NEAR FUTURE.

8. BY SEPTTEL WE ARE SENDING SOME BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON OTAIBA  
TO SUPPLEMENT MATERIAL DEPARTMENT ALREADY HAS ON HAND.  
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## Message Attributes

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